

Appln No. 10/734,923
Reply to Office Action of April 27, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1 to 37 of the current application are pending. Claims 1, 14, and 19 have been amended. No new matter is presented by the amendments .

Summary of Examiner Interview

Applicant's representative John W. Peck would like to thank Examiner Gay for the opportunity to conduct an interview with her on June 15, 2005. The following summary set forth the areas of discussion and the agreement reached in that interview:

- The Examiners and Applicant discussed the patents to Lund, Berry and Putnam set forth in the Office action dated April 27, 2005.
- The Examiners and Applicant also discussed the Examiner's rejection over these references. Applicant explained that none of those prior art devices set forth tubular handling devices capable of a direct exchange of a tubular. The Examiner agreed that an amendment clarifying that such an exchange took place away from the preparation opening would overcome the rejection over the combination of references cited in the April 27, 2005 Office action.

Rejection of claims over Lund, Berry & Putnam

As discussed above, claims 1 and 14, upon which the remaining claims depend, are directed to pipehandling systems "where the first and second pipehandling devices are disposed to allow the direct exchange of tubular lengths therebetween at the tubular exchange point." Neither Putnam nor Lund discloses such a "direct exchange" capability for disclosed pipehandling system, nor does Berry address wither of these references' deficiencies, being directed to a "top drive torque restraint system," that does not even contemplate multiple pipehandling devices.

As a result, Lund, Putnam, and Berry either alone or in combination, do not teach the pipehandling system proposed by Applicant. As such Lund, Putnam, and Berry do not render claims 1 or 14 obvious. As such claims 1 and 14, and the remaining

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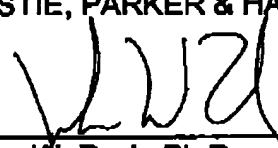
dependent claims are now believed to be in condition for allowance as being dependent from an allowable base claim and for the additional limitations they contain therein. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims over Lund, Putnam, and Berry under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

Objection to Abstract

The Examiner has objected to the specification, as not conforming to MPEP requirements. Applicant has amended the specification to conform with U.S.P.T.O. practice by removing unnecessary language and limiting the abstract to 122 words, thereby obviating this rejection. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the objection to the specification be withdrawn.

Based upon the above amendments and the clarification of the subject claims, Applicant submits that the above referenced application is in condition for allowance. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests the prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowance. If the Examiner wishes to discuss any of the matters outlined above, please do not hesitate to contact Applicant's attorneys at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,
CHRISTIE, PARKER & HALE, LLP

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